

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The RCE is filed in response to a Final Office Action mailed March 4, 2008.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's continued rejection of claims 10-13, 40-43, 45, 46, and 50-64, and assert that these claims are patentable for the reasons set forth in the Amendment in Response to Office Action filed December 3, 2007. In the interest of advancing prosecution and obtaining allowance of the present application, however, Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment.

In the present Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-64, and introduce herewith new claims 65-84. New claims 65, 75, and 81 are independent claims. New claims 66-74 depend from independent claim 65; new claims 76-80 depend from independent claim 75; and new claims 82-84 depend from independent claim 81. New claims 65-84 are fully supported by the originally filed specification and add no new matter.

New independent claim 65 is patentable over the prior art, *inter alia*, because the cited references neither teach nor suggest an intravaginal device including "a medical instrument slidably mounted on the outer surface of said guide rail between said collar and the connection of said first elongated element with the outer surface of said guide rail, wherein rotation of said driving member in a first direction slides said collar toward the distal end of said guide rail which, in turn, urges said medical instrument toward the distal end of said guide rail."

New independent claim 75 is patentable over the prior art, *inter alia*, because the cited references neither teach nor suggest an intravaginal device including "a driving member mounted on the outer surface of said guide rail and extending between said collar and the proximal end of said guide rail, said driving member having a distal end with internal threads for engaging the threaded section of said guide rail and a proximal end accessible at the proximal end of said guide rail . . . , wherein said driving member is advanceable toward the distal end of said guide rail for urging said collar to slide over the threaded section of said guide rail toward the distal end of said guide rail."

New independent claim 81 is patentable over the prior art, *inter alia*, because the cited references neither teach nor suggest an intravaginal device including "a driving member mounted over the outer surface of said guide rail, said driving member having internal threads for engaging the threaded section of said guide rail; and a medical instrument slidably mounted

onto the outer surface of said guide rail between said driving member and the distal end of said guide rail, wherein said driving member is rotatable in a first direction for advancing a distal end of said driving member toward the distal end of said guide rail which, in turn, engages and urges said medical instrument to slide over the outer surface of said guide rail and toward the distal end of said guide rail.”

The remaining claims of the present application are patentable, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from respective claims 65, 75, and 81.

As it is believed that all of the pending claims are novel, unobvious, and patentable over the prior art, prompt consideration and allowance of the present application is earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 689-8700 in order to overcome any additional objections that she may have.

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Respectfully submitted,

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